

# Senate File 181 - Introduced

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY APPEL, STEWART, SCHMITZ,  
QUIRMBACH, DOTZLER, DEARDEN,  
FRAISE, KIBBIE, SODDERS,  
RAGAN, JOCHUM, RIELLY,  
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BOLKCOM

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing campaign contribution limits for candidates  
2 for statewide office or the general assembly and making civil  
3 and criminal penalties applicable.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
5 TLSB 1622SS 83  
6 jr/sc/8

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.502A LIMITATIONS ON  
1 2 CONTRIBUTIONS.  
1 3 1. During any election campaign cycle a person shall not  
1 4 make and a candidate or candidate's committee shall not accept  
1 5 any contribution, as defined in section 68A.102, that in the  
1 6 aggregate exceeds the following:  
1 7 a. Two thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's  
1 8 committee for a statewide office.  
1 9 b. Five hundred dollars to any candidate or candidate's  
1 10 committee for the Iowa house of representatives.  
1 11 c. One thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's  
1 12 committee for the Iowa senate.  
1 13 2. A state statutory political committee, political party,  
1 14 or political committee shall not make and a candidate or  
1 15 candidate's committee shall not accept contributions that,  
1 16 during any election campaign cycle, in the aggregate, exceed  
1 17 the following:  
1 18 a. Four thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's  
1 19 committee for a statewide office.  
1 20 b. One thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's  
1 21 committee for the Iowa house of representatives.  
1 22 c. Two thousand dollars to any candidate or candidate's  
1 23 committee for the Iowa senate.  
1 24 3. The term "election campaign cycle" means the time  
1 25 period between elections for a particular office. For  
1 26 purposes of this section, each primary, general, and special  
1 27 election is a separate election campaign cycle. Separate  
1 28 contribution limits for each type of election for a particular  
1 29 office, including primary, general, and special elections,  
1 30 apply in an election campaign cycle. However, if a candidate  
1 31 for office does not run in a contested primary election, the  
1 32 contribution limit for the general election shall apply for  
1 33 the time period covering both the primary and general  
1 34 elections.  
1 35 4. The contribution limitations in this section do not  
2 1 include contributions made by the candidate to the candidate's  
2 2 own campaign.

## EXPLANATION

2 4 This bill establishes campaign contribution limits for  
2 5 candidates for statewide office and the general assembly.  
2 6 Separate limits are established for individuals, political  
2 7 committees, state party central committees, and political  
2 8 parties. It is a violation both for a contributor to make and  
2 9 a candidate or candidate's committee to accept contributions  
2 10 in excess of the amounts set out in the bill.  
2 11 The specified limitations are for each election cycle,  
2 12 i.e., a primary, general, or special election. By operation

2 13 of law, the limitations apply to in-kind contributions, such  
2 14 as printing, but do not apply to the cash value of volunteer  
2 15 activity.  
2 16 The bill provides that the contribution restrictions do not  
2 17 apply to contributions made by the candidate to the  
2 18 candidate's own campaign.  
2 19 As provided in Code section 68A.701, a willful violation of  
2 20 any provision of the campaign finance chapter is a serious  
2 21 misdemeanor punishable by confinement for up to one year and a  
2 22 fine of at least \$315 but not more than \$1,875. A variety of  
2 23 civil remedies are also available in Code section 68B.32D for  
2 24 a violation of Code chapter 68A or rules of the ethics and  
2 25 campaign disclosure board, ranging from a reprimand to a civil  
2 26 penalty of not more than \$2,000.  
2 27 LSB 1622SS 83  
2 28 jr/sc/8